

IN THE CLAIMS:

A complete listing of the claims and their status as of this Amendment is as follows:

Claims 1-9 (Cancelled)

10.(Currently amended) A device for filling containers with perishable material, comprising:

a filling station, positioned within a clean room, in which the containers are filled:

a closure station within said clean room for initially closing the containers with a first sealing device; and

a final closing station positioned downstream from and outside said clean room sterile environment for finally ~~closing~~ sealing the containers with a second sealing device.

Claim 11 (Cancelled)

12. (Previously presented) The device according to claim 10, further comprising a first cleaning lock for cleaning the containers prior to entering the clean room.

13. (Previously presented) The device according to claim 12, wherein the first cleaning lock has a cleaning device selected from the group comprising a radiation device and a gassing device.

14. (Previously presented) The device according to claim 13, wherein the radiation device emits a liquid, UV radiation, radioactive radiation or germicidal gas.

15. (Previously presented) The device according to claim 10, further comprising a cleaning station downstream from the filling station for washing the exterior of filled and closed containers with a fluid material.

16. (Previously presented) The device according to claim 10, further comprising a second cleaning lock located in communication with the clean room for cleaning at least one of said first and second sealing devices.

Claim 17 (Cancelled)

18. (Previously presented) The device according to claim 16, wherein said second cleaning lock has a cleaning device selected from the group comprising a radiation device and a gassing device.

19. (Previously presented) The device according to claim 18, wherein the radiation device emits a liquid, UV radiation, radioactive radiation or germicidal gas.

20. (Currently amended) A method for filling containers with perishable substances, comprising:
introducing containers to be filled into a first cleaning lock;
transferring the containers from the first cleaning lock into a clean room;
filling the containers in the clean room;
initially closing each said containers with a first sealing device while said containers are in said clean room to provide complete sealing of said containers against contamination in a sterile environment;
transferring said containers out of said clean room and sterile environment; and
finally sealing each said initially closed and sealed containers with a second sealing device to further assure each said container is air- and liquid-tight.

21. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 20, wherein the method comprises cleaning the containers in the first cleaning lock.

22. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 20, further comprising

introducing at least said first sealing devices into a second cleaning lock and transferring said at least first sealing devices from the second cleaning lock into the clean room for placement on said containers.

23. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 21, wherein the method further comprises cleaning at least one of said first and second sealing devices in said first cleaning lock prior to placement on said containers for closing.

24. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 21, wherein the method comprises cleaning the containers in the first cleaning lock with at least one cleaning device selected from the group consisting of a radiation device and a gasification device, or combinations thereof.

25. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 24, wherein the method further comprises cleaning at least one of said first or second sealing devices in said second cleaning lock with at least one of the group consisting of liquid, UV radiation, radioactive radiation and gas.

26. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 22, wherein the method comprises cleaning the containers and said sealing devices in the first cleaning lock with at least one cleaning device selected from the group consisting of a jet liquid, UV radiation, radioactive radiation and gas.

27. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 20, wherein the method comprises cleaning the containers in the clean room.

28. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 20, wherein the method comprises cleaning the containers and the first and second sealing devices with at least one cleaning device selected from the group consisting of a jet liquid, UV

radiation, radioactive radiation and gas.

29.(Previously presented) The method according to claim 20, further comprising washing the exterior of the containers with a fluid material after the containers have left the clean room.